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Chairman  
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.R. 1654—National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act**

**H.R. 1553—National Weather Service and Related Agencies Authorization Act**



**H.R. 1654—National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider H.R. 1654 as its first order of business today. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted an open rule that provides one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Science Committee. The rule waives House rules requiring that committee reports be available for three days before consideration. It makes in order a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as base text and accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 1654 authorizes \$41.2 billion for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for the next three fiscal years. This amount includes \$13.6 billion in FY 2000, \$13.8 billion in FY 2001, and \$13.8 billion in FY 2002.

Specifically, the bill authorizes:

- \* approximately \$21 billion for science and research programs, including \$7 billion for space science programs;
- \* \$170.4 million for the Hubble Space Telescope;
- \* \$4.2 billion for earth science programs, including \$100 million for the Commercial Remote Sensing Program at the Stennis Space Center for commercial data purchases;

- \* \$2.9 billion for aerospace technology;
- \* \$7 billion for the United States' portion of the International Space Station;
- \* \$7.8 billion for space shuttle operations and \$1.3 billion for space shuttle safety and performance upgrades;
- \* \$7.7 billion for mission support programs;
- \* \$1 billion for mission communication services;
- \* \$386 million for academic programs, including \$187 million for minority research and education and \$101 million for Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and
- \* \$424 million for future space launch planning.

H.R. 1654 prohibits funds in the bill from being used for Triana, a NASA satellite designed to transfer photographs of the Earth to the Internet, except for \$2.5 million for termination costs. The bill eliminates funding for the High Performance Computing and Communications and Information Technology for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century programs. The bill also prohibits funding for the Ultra-Efficient Engine and increases funding for the Research and Technology Base, the Future-X Demonstration Program, and the Advanced Space Transportation Program.

The bill was introduced by Mr. Rohrabacher and was reported by the Science Committee by a vote of 27-13 on May 13, 1999.

**Views:** The Republican leadership supports passage of the measure. The president strongly opposes the bill because it (1) restricts the use of International Space Station research funds, (2) requires NASA to spend \$50 million to purchase commercial remote sensing data, (3) terminates funding for the Triana satellite project, and (4) limits technology activities such as research on inflatable structures.

**Amendments:** At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendments to H.R. 1654:

**Mr. Bateman** may offer an amendment (#1) to decrease funding for the International Space Station by \$300 million and use the funding to increase the authorization for aero-space technology programs. **Contact: x5-4261**

**Mr. Cook** may offer an amendment (#2) to require the NASA Administrator to (1) allocate sufficient resources to promote commercial participation in the International Space Station, (2) instruct NASA staff to consider the potential impact of commercialization when developing policies and program priorities, and (3) publish an annual list of the opportunities for commercial participation in the space station consistent with safety and mission assurance. **Staff Contact: Mike Garrity, x5-3011**

**Mr. Roemer and Mr. Sanford** may offer an amendment (#3) to terminate funding for the International Space Station. **Staff Contact: Pete Spiro, x5-3915**

**Mr. Roemer** may offer an amendment (#4) to limit funding for the International Space Station. Specifically, the amendment prohibits (1) the total cost to complete the space station from exceeding \$21.9 billion, and (2) the total costs of space shuttle launch costs in connection with station assembly from exceeding \$17.7 billion. This restriction does not apply to funding for operations, research, and crew return activities, or space shuttle launch costs in connection with these activities if the space station is substantially completed (i.e., when development costs for the year do not exceed five percent of total costs). The amendment allows these limits to be adjusted for inflation and other unforeseen factors, and requires various reports and reviews to ensure adherence to the limits. *Staff Contact: Pete Spiro, x5-3915*

**Mr. Roemer** may offer an amendment (#5) to cancel Russia's participation in the International Space Station within 90 days of enactment. *Staff Contact: Pete Spiro, x5-3915*

**Mr. Rohrabacher** may offer a manager's amendment (#6) to make several clarifying changes to the bill. *Staff Contact: Jim Muncy x5-7858*

**Mr. Salmon** may offer an amendment (#7) to require the NASA Administrator to consult with the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy to place anti-drug messages on NASA Internet sites. *Staff Contact: Glenn Hamer, x5-2635*

**Mr. Smith (MI)** may offer one of two amendments (#8 or #9) to require the NASA Administrator and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop and implement a plan within 90 days of enactment to inform farmers about the use and availability of remote sensing products (i.e., satellite data) to assist with agriculture and forestry applications. Amendment (#9) requires the NASA Administrator merely to consult with the Secretary of Agriculture when developing and carrying out the plan. *Staff Contact: Alec Rogers, x5-6276*

**Mr. Sweeney** may offer an amendment to require the NASA Administrator to certify to Congress within 15 days before entering into an agreement with the People's Republic of China, or a Chinese corporation, that the proposed agreement will not be detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry and will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China. The amendment also requires the NASA Administrator to consult with the directors of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct an annual audit of NASA's policies and procedures with respect to technology exports and the transfer of scientific and technical information. *Staff Contact: Mike Power, x5-5614*

**Mr. Traficant** may offer an amendment (#10) to express the sense of Congress that any equipment or products purchased with funds authorized by the bill should be American-made. *Contact: x5-5261*

**Mr. Traficant** may offer an amendment (#11) to require the NASA Administrator to select abandoned and underused buildings, grounds, and facilities in depressed communities for NASA facilities. *Contact: x5-5261*

**A Democratic member** may offer an amendment to authorize \$32.6 million for the Triana satellite program. Currently, the bill terminates the program and authorizes only \$2.5 million for the costs of shutting down the program.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #14, May 14, 1999.



## **H.R. 1553—National Weather Service and Related Agencies Authorization Act**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider H.R. 1553 after it completes consideration of H.R. 1654. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted an open rule that provides one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Science Committee. The rule waives House rules requiring that committee reports be available for three days before consideration. It makes in order a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as base text and accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 1553 authorizes \$1.39 billion for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in FY 2000, a 5.3 percent increase over FY 1999, and \$1.46 billion in FY 2001. Specifically, the bill authorizes (1) \$617.9 million annually for the National Weather Service for Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF) activities and \$140 million for procurement, acquisition, and construction (PAC) activities; (2) \$173.3 million for both FYs 2000-2001 for ORF and \$24 million for PAC at the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research; (3) \$103 million annually for ORF and \$890 million for PAC for the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service; and (4) \$3.9 million annually for ORF environmental research and development and operating the David Skaggs Research Center in Boulder, Colorado.

H.R. 1553 prohibits the NWS from assisting or providing services to other entities when the services can be provided by a commercial source. The bill makes exceptions for forecasts and warnings of severe weather, floods, hurricanes, and tsunami events that can adversely affect life or property. NWS also may assist other entities when the Commerce Secretary deems the private sector unable or unwilling to provide the service, or the service provides vital weather warnings and forecasts to protect lives and public property.

In addition, the bill prohibits awarding NOAA grants after FY 1999 to any person who received a grant not subject to a competitive, merit-based award process and requires that abstracts of all research grants authorized by the act be made publicly available over the Internet.

CBO estimates that enactment will result in additional discretionary spending of \$2.8 billion over FYs 2000-2004. The bill was introduced by Mr. Calvert and reported by the Science Committee by voice vote on April 29, 1999.

**Views:** The Republican leadership supports passage of the measure. The Clinton Administration does not object to passage of the bill.

**Amendments:** At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendments to H.R. 1553:

**Mr. Costello** may offer an amendment to increase amounts authorized for all operations, research, and facilities (ORF) activities for FY 2001 by three percent. **Staff Contact:** *Jean Fruci, x5-6375*

**Mr. Hutchinson** may offer an amendment (#1) to express the sense of Congress that the National Weather Service should not close any local weather service offices within Wind Zone IV, the “tornado alley.” *Staff Contact: Mike Platt, x5-4301*

**Mr. Traficant** may offer an amendment (#2) to require that funds authorized by the bill be spent in compliance with the Buy American Act. *Contact: x5-5261*

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #14, May 14, 1999.



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